

# Item 6.1 - Business Bulletin

## Education, Children and Families Committee

**10.00am, Tuesday 13 December 2016**

Main Council Chamber, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

## Education, Children and Families Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Convener Councillor Cammy Day</p>  <p>Vice-Convener Councillor Cathy Fullerton</p> 	<p>Cllr Cammy Day (Convener) Cllr Cathy Fullerton (Vice-Convener) Cllr Elaine Aitken Cllr Robert Aldridge Cllr Norma Austin Hart Cllr Stefan Tymkewycz Cllr Maureen Child Cllr Nick Cook Cllr Gavin Corbett Cllr Gordon Munro Cllr Alex Lunn Cllr Michael Bridgman Cllr Allan Jackson Cllr David Key Cllr Richard Lewis Cllr Melanie Main Cllr Eric Milligan Cllr Vicki Redpath Cllr Keith Robson Cllr Jason Rust Cllr Andrew Burns (ex officio) Cllr Frank Ross (ex officio)</p> <p>For education items: Marie Allan (religious representative) Rev Thomas Coupar (religious representative) Allan Crosbie (teacher representative) One vacancy (religious representative) Alexander Ramage (parent representative) John Swinburne (teacher representative)</p>	<p>Ross Murray Committee Officer Tel: 529 4227</p> <p>Alasdair Oliphant Departmental Adviser to the Convener and the Vice-Convener Tel: 529 3294</p>

### **Governance Review – Early Years and Schools**

On 13 September 2016, the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, John Swinney, launched an Education Delivery Plan and far reaching Governance Review of Early Years and Schools with the aim of continuing to improve attainment across Scotland, so that all children can achieve, irrespective of their background and circumstances.

Narrowing the gap requires a full range of services to work effectively together, and the City of Edinburgh Council recognises the crucial role schools play in this.

As part of the formal consultation exercise, views are currently being sought from parents, pupils, teachers, practitioners, school representative bodies and the wider community.

The consultation on the Governance Review concludes on 6 January 2017, so there is still time to submit views on the proposals being put forward on this important matter.

### **New Education Convener**

Councillor Cammy Day was formally appointed as the new Education Convener at the City of Edinburgh Council meeting on 27 October and now chairs the Education, Children and Families Committee. This follows Councillor Paul Godzik's announcement at the last committee that he would be standing down as Convener.

Councillor Day was a serving member of the Education, Children and Families Committee and knows well the wide range of education and children's services provided across the city.

### **Independent Inquiry Report (PPP1 Schools)**

The respected construction and procurement industry expert, John Cole CBE is leading the independent inquiry into Edinburgh's school closures and this work has been ongoing for several months. A report is expected early in 2017.

For more information on the Governance Review consultation and to submit your views [click here](#)

## **Business Support in Schools**

It was previously stated that an update on the review of Business Support in Schools would be provided as soon as this information was available. This work remains ongoing and there will be an update by Communities and Families to the Finance and Resources Committee. An updated position will be reported in the next Business Bulletin in March 2017.

## **New Online Payments System**

The City of Edinburgh Council is introducing an online payments system in schools that allows parents to pay online for things like school meals and trips. The system also allows primary parents to order their child's school meals online. This will be rolled out on a phased basis and all schools will be online by the end of the school session. Information will be sent out to parents directly, approximately five weeks before the system is introduced in their school to allow them to set up their accounts and those in the first phase will already have received information.

Details about online payments are also available in the School Meals Update report being presented to this committee.

## **Heathervale Young People's Centre**

Councillor Cathy Fullerton officially opened the new Heathervale Young People's Centre in Wester Hailes on 2 November. This is the first residential care facility to be built by the City of Edinburgh Council for young people since 2003 and is a state of the art residence with six spacious bedrooms, each with en-suite facilities, and living, dining and creative spaces for young people and staff. There is also a self-contained flat for those making the important transition to independent living.

The unit has been very well received into the local community and it was great to have some members of the Community Council present at the opening.

More information is available at:  
[www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)



## James Gillespie's High School

The new James Gillespie's High School was officially opened on 26 October by John Swinney, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills and Councillor Paul Godzik. Also in attendance were Councillor Fullerton, Head Teacher Donald J Macdonald and Paul McGirk, Chief Executive of Hub South East Scotland, the Council's development partner.

Guest of honour was Sue Caton, niece of Olympic athlete Eric Liddell, and the new sports building is named after the famous Scottish sporting hero. The new performance block has also been named the Spark building after novelist and former pupil, Dame Muriel Spark.

The school rebuild began in 2012 across all aspects of the campus, which serves pupils from 3 to 18 years in nursery, primary and high schools all on the same site. The final phase of works was completed in August this year with the opening of the new sports and performance buildings. The Grade A listed Bruntsfield House at the centre of the campus also underwent a major refurbishment.

The project received significant Scottish Government funding through the 'Scotland's Schools for the Future' programme which is managed by the Scottish Futures Trust. The completion of the project gives the school community a campus they can be rightly proud of.

### Consultation on School Session Dates for 2018/19 and Beyond

An earlier consultation on the criteria for setting school session dates took place in February 2015 and went to the Education, Children and Families Committee on [19 May 2015](#). There were 9,438 responses. The results informed dates for the 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 sessions which were subsequently approved by Committee.

Committee also agreed that dates for 2018/2019 and beyond should be the subject of a wide-ranging consultation after discussion with the Consultative Committee with Parents and the Local Negotiating

For more information on the school opening [click here](#)

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Committee (Teachers). It was agreed that this consultation should include consideration of potentially more radical changes to the school session.

Consultation questions will be agreed with the Senior Management Team and trade unions before being circulated. In addition, the proposed questions will be agreed with the Consultative Committee with Parents and the locality parent engagement groups.

An online survey will be drafted, incorporating some questions which are similar to the previous survey. As before, the link to the survey will be sent to all teaching staff, all chairs of Parent Councils and the professional associations. In line with the children and young people's rights agenda, pupils will be included in the consultation.

New questions on potential future moves to a four term year and on delaying the summer holiday to coincide with the Edinburgh Festival will also be included. Background research on the educational rationale for alternative models will be shared.

The initial consultation around the questions will begin early in 2017 with the intention of disseminating the agreed survey in February. To allow time to maximise participation, the survey will be open for a minimum of six weeks. The survey will close at the end of term on Friday 31 March 2017. Results will be analysed and, along with proposed dates for 2018/2019, 2019/2020 and 2021/2022, brought to Committee on 20 June 2017 for discussion and approval.

### **Kaimes School**

Kaimes School has become the only special school in Edinburgh to be awarded a prestigious national sports award.

The City of Edinburgh Council school, which has 100 autistic pupils, has been recognised with the **sportscotland** Gold School Sport Award.

The accolade is part of a national initiative designed to encourage schools to continuously improve physical education and sport and encourages

For more information about the school's award [click here](#)

sporting links between schools and the communities around them.

There are currently 158 Gold Schools, 281 Silver and 92 Bronze across Scotland. To achieve a Bronze or Silver **sportscotland** School Sport Award, schools self-assess their current practice. However, to gain Gold status, an extensive external assessment is also carried out by an independent panel of experts.

Health and wellbeing is central to the ethos of Kaimes school. In addition to timetabled PE sessions, participation in sport is also encouraged through lunch and after school clubs as well as regular residential camps linked to outdoor physical activities such as climbing, canoeing, sailing and skiing.

### **Girls Inspired to Get Active**

An innovative project has been launched by the City of Edinburgh Council to encourage girls at schools to become more active. The first 'Girls Day Out' conference was held at Wester Hailes Education Centre on 26 October and attended by around 150 girls from S1 to S5 year groups across the city.

Organised by the Council's Active Schools Team in partnership with Youth Scotland and **sportscotland**, the project aims to inspire, encourage and support girls to become more active, raise the profile of successful girls and their achievements, and educate girls on the power of sport.

This initiative supports the Council's work with its partners to increase participation in PE, sport and physical activity amongst girls and young women. It is also a great way for schools, clubs and hubs to showcase the opportunities available both locally and nationally.

For more information on the event [click here](#)